

Salem, Saudi officials hold talks

RIYADH (R) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem held talks Saturday with his Saudi Arabian counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal on the Lebanese situation, officials said. The officials gave no details of the talks but said Mr. Salem would meet King Fahd later. Mr. Salem came to Saudi Arabia from Damascus, where he said Friday he was acting as a "peace and reconciliation envoy." His talks with Syrian and Saudi leaders were believed to be aimed at resuming stalled Geneva talks between the warring Lebanese factions in the hope of reaching reconciliation in Lebanon. Foreign Ministry sources in Riyadh said Mr. Salem was briefing Saudi officials on his talks in Syria as well as recent discussions in Washington between Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

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Greek official quits over Cyprus

ATHENS (R) — Greek Foreign Under-Secretary Yannis Kapsis has been relieved of his responsibilities for Cyprus affairs after reports of a clash with the Cypriot leadership. Chief government spokesman Dimitris Maroudas said Saturday Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu accepted Mr. Kapsis' request to step down because of the "uproar created as a result of his handling of the Cyprus problem." "This uproar could only cause damage to the national issue," Mr. Kapsis said in a letter addressed to the prime minister. According to press reports Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou demanded the removal of Mr. Kapsis, holding him responsible for a rift between Athens and Nicosia last month.

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9 U.S. servicemen's bodies reach U.S.

DOVER, Delaware (R) — The bodies of eight U.S. Marines and a navy pilot killed in Lebanon last Sunday were returned to the United States Saturday morning. The nine men, members of the international peacekeeping force stationed in Lebanon, were the first U.S. troops to die there since the Oct. 23 bombing that killed 240 Marines. The Marines died during shelling of their base near the Beirut airport and the pilot was shot down over Lebanon's central mountain region.

Zia may recognise Turkish Cypriot state

ISLAMABAD (R) — President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq said Saturday Pakistan was "actively considering" recognising the self-proclaimed Turkish republic of northern Cyprus. He told reporters that Pakistan's sympathies were with Turkey, which is so far the only country to have recognised the republic proclaimed last month by Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash.

Reagan: 1,000 ready for suicide attacks

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan told a closed meeting of his supporters up to 1,000 terrorists, particularly Iranians, were gathered in Lebanon ready to conduct suicide attacks similar to that against U.S. Marines in October, people at the meeting said. Mr. Reagan made the statement when he was speaking to supporters in the Citizens for America Organisation this week.

Turkey to restrict U.S. use of base

ANKARA (R) — Turkey will stop allowing the U.S. to supply its troops in Lebanon through a U.S. base in Turkey if any of the other three nations in the Beirut peace-keeping force pull out, a leading Turkish newspaper reported Saturday. The independent daily Milliyet, usually well-informed, said this was one of a set of conditions laid down in letters between Ankara and Washington on the use of an American base at Incirlik in south-eastern Turkey to ferry supplies to Beirut. Milliyet's report, which was uncorroborated, said a further condition was that no weapons should be included in supplies from Incirlik to Beirut and that transiting personnel should be limited in number to 500 per month.

Andropov gets dialysis machine

BONN (R) — A kidney dialysis machine has been installed for Soviet leader Yuri Andropov in a small room next to his Kremlin office, a West German newspaper said Saturday. Quoting Bonn government sources in an article released ahead of publication, Sunday, the mass circulation Bild said that despite his return to work, Mr. Andropov was not yet completely healthy.

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Israeli blockade, bombardments delay Tripoli evacuation

Arafat stresses importance of joint moves with Jordan

By a Jordan Times staff writer with Agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has emphasised the importance of joint talks with Jordan on co-ordinated political moves in efforts for Middle East peace and expressed readiness to resume the talks which were broken off last April.

Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told French Television Friday that the PLO should do all it can to resume the dialogue with Jordan, "which has a positive and important role to play to find a solution to the Palestine problem and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Arafat, who is now besieged by Syrian-backed, Palestinian dissidents in the north Lebanese port city of Tripoli, said: "Following the current crisis we are passing through (the Tripoli siege) I will be looking forward to meeting His Majesty King Hussein for the resumption of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks."

The embattled PLO chairman, whose aides said Saturday that his plans to evacuate Tripoli were delayed by an Israeli blockade and intensified bombardments, also expressed appreciation for the King's support for the legitimate leadership of the PLO.

"I am deeply grateful to King Hussein for his brotherly and gen-

uine stand towards the Palestinian people in their ordeal and during the siege of Tripoli," the Palestinian leader, who has been leading the PLO for the past 14 years, said.

The PLO seeks to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East through an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Mr. Arafat told French Television.

Mr. Arafat's renewed call for the resumption of talks with Jordan comes at a most critical stage in the Palestinian movement. The PLO leader has accused Syria of supporting the rebel movement and aiming to control the organisation. Damascus has denied the charges. Last July, it expelled Mr. Arafat after the PLO leader accused the Syrian government of openly supporting the rebels in their attacks against positions held by his supporters in north Lebanon.

Since then, Mr. Arafat reappeared in Tripoli in September and in the face of intensified rebel

attacks was forced to leave his last two strongholds in north Lebanon, the Nahr Al Bared and Baddawi refugee camps, and withdraw to Tripoli.

The rebels, supported by Syrian weapons and logistic support, have surrounded Tripoli and are demanding that Mr. Arafat leave the port city. Under a joint Syrian-Saudi plan, Mr. Arafat has agreed to evacuate Tripoli.

Greece has agreed to provide vessels to carry Mr. Arafat and his estimated 4,000 supporters in Tripoli to North Yemen and Tunisia. Earlier this month, the United Nations agreed to allow the ships to fly the U.N. flag which is symbolic of the world body's protection.

On Friday, Israel, whose navy has blocked the Mediterranean around Tripoli, made a pre-dawn attempt to land its forces at Tripoli but were beaten off by Arafat loyalists after a fierce exchange of artillery and rocket fire.

'Israel delays departure'

On Saturday, Ahmad Abdulrahman, spokesman for Mr. Arafat, told reporters that Israeli gunboats had attacked PLO positions overnight for the second day running.

"If there is a delay, it is not because we want to delay it (the PLO departure)," Mr. Abdulrahman said. "It is the Israeli aggression."

Mr. Abdulrahman said it was Israel's pre-dawn attack on PLO positions on Friday that caused

Greece, which is providing naval transport for the guerrillas, to seek international guarantees from the United States and other members of the multinational peacekeeping force in Lebanon.

He said Israel's aim was to deny the PLO the international legitimacy it would gain if the United States, Britain, France and Italy agreed to provide guarantees for their safety.

Arafat aides did not offer to escort reporters to the port area, which they said was the target of the second attack Friday night.

Mr. Abdulrahman said the Israeli gunboats attacked coastal areas north of Tripoli but that no targets inside Tripoli or near Mr. Arafat's headquarters in the city were hit. He said Israeli boats were still cruising off the Tripoli coast in ambush.

Tripoli, Lebanon's second largest city with a population of 500,000, was mostly quiet Saturday, although the rattle of machinegun fire could be heard intermittently from some areas.

Security sources reported sporadic exchanges of fire between the rival Palestinian factions in the neighbourhoods of Tabaneh, Ba'al Mohsen and Qubbeh. They said a number of people were wounded.

(Continued on page 3)

Arafat's men demand strong naval escort; U.S. hopes for safe evacuation; Qatar supports PLO, page 2

Latest Beirut truce fails to bring peace

BEIRUT (R) — A new ceasefire between the Lebanese army and opposition militias, arranged in Damascus Friday night, was broken Saturday when army gunboats on the Souk Al Gharb ridge overlooking Beirut came under attack briefly, security sources said.

The level of violence was lower than usual and a second truce was agreed for 12.05 p.m. (1105 GMT).

The mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), the militia which faces the army on the mountain front, said Lebanese troops opened fire to cover fortification activities.

The army used howitzers, mortars and direct fire from 23 millimetre anti-aircraft guns for just under an hour. PSP officials said in a telephone call from the mountains.

In the southern suburbs, where the army has clashed often with the Shiite Muslim militia Amal, there was a short exchange of small arms and grenade fire, the security sources said.

The violations occurred as President Amin Gemayel met members of parliament at the presidential palace for a second day of talks on forming a new government, palace sources said.

Airport remains closed

Many Lebanese had pinned high hopes on the Damascus truce believing that Syria's role in arranging the cease-fire gave it extra weight. Beirut newspapers speculated it would lead to the reopening of Beirut airport, possibly by next Monday.

The airport, which lies on a vulnerable coastal plain south of Beirut, closed on Nov. 30 after anti-government forces in the mountains shelled Lebanese army positions there.

At the presidential palace in the hill suburb of Baabda, Mr. Gemayel met 22 members of parliament individually and in groups for a second day of consultations requested by Prime Minister Shafiq Al Wazzan.

The prime minister wants to hand over to a government of national unity. He offered his resignation on Sept. 26 but has not yet had a reply.

The palace sources said most members of parliament thought a national unity government would be premature. It would be best to wait until after a second round of reconciliation talks in Geneva, they said.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem and U.S. special Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld are currently on separate tours intended to get the talks moving again.

Mr. Salem visited Damascus Friday and arrived Saturday in Riyadh, Syria and Saudi Arabia, as parties to the original Sept. 25 ceasefire agreement between the army, the PSP and Amal, attended the Geneva talks as observers.

Mr. Rumsfeld Friday met four of the factional leaders invited to Geneva and was expected to meet others Saturday.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday confers with Bahraini Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifeh (Petra photo)

Hussein, Hamad discuss Arab issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received the visiting Bahraini crown prince, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifeh. Sheikh Hamad conveyed to the King greetings from the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra quoted Sheikh Hamad as saying that he discussed with King Hussein ways to bolster inter-Arab relations, the situation in the

Arabian Gulf region and ways to strengthen Jordanian-Bahraini co-operation and bilateral relations.

Sheikh Hamad said his talks with the King were in the course of inter-Arab consultations, particularly on the situation in the Gulf which calls for an exchange of views in the best interest of the Arab Nation, according to the

news agency.

Sheikh Hamad's meeting with King Hussein was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem and the Bahrain foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak.

Sheikh Hamad, son of Sheikh Isa, arrived in Amman Friday on a private visit.

Hassan opens Arab Thought Forum talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan opened at the Royal Cultural Centre Saturday an Arab-American-Canadian dialogue.

The two-day dialogue will discuss a number of developments as well as economic, cultural and political issues in the Arab World as well as the situation in Lebanon.

In his opening address Prince Hassan said that the "current deterioration of the situation in the region is due to many political factions and the failure to solve the Palestine issue which has become a menace to world peace and stability."

Jordan, in its drive to promote the efforts for peace, has exerted all efforts on the Arab and international levels and has conducted a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Prince Hassan said.

He also said that the United States has not adopted a firm stand with regard to the Middle East peace process as included in the Reagan initiative. Israel has rejected the Reagan proposal outright and refused to freeze its settlement policy, he pointed out.

The dialogue is organised by the Arab Thought Forum in co-operation with the World Affairs Council offices in Canada and the U.S., as well as similar societies in the United Kingdom, France and Italy. Taking part are several Arab and Jordanian politicians and intellectuals.

Prince Hassan also said that the dialogue will discuss a number of developments as well as economic, cultural and political issues in the Arab World as well as the situation in Lebanon.

Mr. Vance was quoted by Petra as saying that efforts should be made for the resumption of the Middle East peace-making process with special attention to the Palestine issue which is the basic problem in the Middle East. A solution for the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip should be found, Mr. Vance stressed, Petra said.

Mr. Vance also condemned Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories, describing it as an illegal action which creates an obstacle to peace.

"The settlements represent a gradual annexation of Arab land and constitutes a grave danger to the peace process and a defiance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 which is the basis for establishing peace," he said.

Mr. Vance called also for a speedy solution for the Lebanese question, and added: "But our efforts to solve that question should not divert us from the original issue: The Palestine problem to which it is closely connected."

Mr. Vance arrived in Amman Thursday from Israel. He was received by His Majesty King Hussein Thursday and Prime Minister Mudar Badran held talks with the former U.S. official on Saturday.

During a speech at the opening of Tel Aviv University's Dayan Centre for Middle East and African studies, Mr. Vance called on Israel to halt the settlement drive in the occupied West Bank as a step towards realising peace.

King meets Mitterrand this week

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein is expected to begin a several-day private visit to France Monday.

King Hussein, who is due to arrive in Paris Monday, is expected to hold talks Tuesday with French President Francois Mitterrand.

Al Ra'i newspaper Saturday quoted informed diplomatic sources in Paris as saying the King's talks in France will cover the possibility of France and its partners in the European Community assuming a bigger role in efforts for Middle East peace.

King Hussein will also address the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Thursday. Al Ra'i added.

Jordan seeks U.N. moves on humanitarian body

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan has submitted to the U.N. General Assembly's 38th session a draft resolution urging world nations to support the work and activities of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues.

The draft resolution called on U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to contact governments which have not yet presented their views on the commission and to contact the commission again for its comprehensive report to be submitted to the U.N. General Assembly's 40th session.

The draft calls on world nations to consider establishing a more

equitable world economic system based on justice and takes into consideration human issues in Asia and Africa.

The commission is an independent body operating outside the U.N. and is co-chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan.

The commission, comprising 24 notable personalities from around the world holds meetings two to three times a year. Last year, the commission's programmes included on ways of alleviating the sufferings of victims of natural disasters, desertification, and armed conflicts.

Shultz acknowledges Arab criticism of U.S.

TUNIS (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said here Saturday that he had had "an earnest" of criticism of United States policy in the Middle East during his 20-hour stay in Tunisia, according to officials.

Mr. Shultz, who arrived here Friday night from Brussels, made the remark before leaving for Morocco, in an aside to Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi, officials close to the U.S. delegation said.

During an hour of talk on the Middle East, Mr. Essebsi told Mr. Shultz that the United States must adopt a more "balanced attitude" towards Israel and Arab countries in the Middle East conflict, the Tunisian news agency TAP said.

"We have expressed our fears concerning the new links of co-operation between the United States and Israel," Mr. Essebsi told a news conference following Mr. Shultz's talks with President

Habib Bourguiba and Prime Minister Mohammed Mzali.

Mr. Shultz told the conference he had heard many critical comments which he said could occur only between friends.

The United States would continue to have strong relations with both its Arab friends and Israel, he added.

During talks between Mr. Shultz and government leaders at the Kasbah Palace, about 200 Tunisians demonstrated nearby chanting slogans in support of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and against Zionism.

Mr. Arafat is widely expected to return to his headquarters in Tunis once his loyalist troops are evacuated from the northern Lebanese town of Tripoli where they are beleaguered.

Mr. Shultz also held talks with Chadi Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League.

هلنا من اجل

Arafat's men in Tripoli request strong French, Greek naval escort

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Supporters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat preparing to evacuate Tripoli by sea say they have requested extra French and Greek warships to escort them following an Israeli gunboat attack on their positions.

Preparations for the evacuation of Mr. Arafat's 4,000 guerrillas are continuing, according to a spokesman for the besieged Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader, but the loyalists fear another Israeli assault before they leave.

They also believe the rare sea-borne attack by the Israelis Friday could signal the intention of the Israeli navy to block their departure.

"We have sent a message to the U.N. Security Council on this matter and we have contacted the French and Greek governments about new security measures so that our fighters can leave without any danger," Mr. Arafat's spokesman Ahmed Abdel-Rahman said.

said.

"We asked them to send more warships, not a symbolic force," he added.

Friday's Israeli naval bombardment just outside Tripoli killed three guerrillas and wounded four, Mr. Arafat told reporters, but added that it caused little material damage.

Mr. Abdel-Rahman said he was sure more warships would now be provided, but could not give a number.

He added that France had already agreed to provide a naval escort and Greece to provide a "symbolic" warship.

However, in a move apparently motivated by the Israeli action, Greece Friday night demanded

"explicit" security guarantees from the U.S., French, Italian and British multinational force in Beirut before it would honour its earlier pledge to provide ships to transport the Palestinians.

The 5,800-man Multinational Peacekeeping Force is backed by warships from the U.S. sixth fleet and the French and British navies. There was no immediate indication that the four governments would agree to provide escorts for the Palestinians.

PLO officials said the Israeli attack was a reprisal for a bomb that killed four people and wounded 43 in occupied Jerusalem on Tuesday. Both the pro- and anti-Arafat factions have claimed responsibility for that blast.

Since the blast, Israel has repeatedly refused to rule out a sea-borne attack on the evacuation flotilla.

Mr. Arafat said the Israeli attack was an attempt to land troops near Tripoli. But there was no evidence the Israelis intended more

than a punitive bombardment, or a timely demonstration of Israeli sea power.

Mr. Arafat's men, trapped in Tripoli since early November by Syrian-backed Palestinians opposed to his leadership, are scheduled to leave within 11 days under a ceasefire agreement drafted by Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Abdel-Rahman has said they could sail as early as next Wednesday for Tunis and North Yemen on chartered Greek vessels flying the United Nations flag as symbolic protection.

Shipping sources in Athens said Friday at least two Greek shipping firms had been accepted in the pull-out and three others were awaiting news on their bids.

"Our people will leave when the ships come," Mr. Abdel-Rahman said. "They will take two days to sail here and then we will need another two days for the arrangements."

Iraq repeats warning against foreign ships

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq warned Sunday that its armed forces would sink any foreign ships which tried to approach Iranian ports at the northern end of the Gulf.

The official daily Al-Jumhuriya, in an editorial, said Iraqi forces would sink "ships that ignore the warnings despite their identities or whatever flag they hoist."

Iraq said on Thursday its forces had sunk six "enemy naval targets" in what it considers a war zone at the northern end of the strategic waterway.

The Iraqis said on one day last month they had sunk seven "enemy" vessels in the Gulf. Following that statement, the owners

of a Greek freighter said it had been hit by a missile but there were no reports of damage from any other shipowners.

"Shipowners should not rely on Iraq's patience or pardon," the official paper said. "They should not venture with their ships or gamble with the lives of their crew but respect Iraq's warnings and find new ports for their ships other than Iranian ports and areas other than the war exclusion zone."

"Let everyone know that any ship that ignores Iraq's warnings will be liable for destruction at any time while sailing in the prohibited area and, if it escapes once, it will not escape a second time. No ship is exempt," Al-Jumhuriya said.

Qatar supports PLO

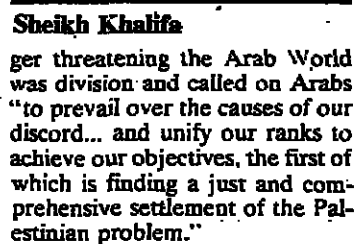
DOHA (R) — Qatar's Emir Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al-Thani Saturday reiterated his country's support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and called on rival Palestinian factions to adhere to last month's ceasefire agreement in north Lebanon.

Opening a new session of the advisory council — the 30-member appointed parliament — Sheikh Khalifa said: "Qatar stands by the Palestinian people and supports their courageous struggle against the brutal Israeli aggression."

He said Qatar backed the Palestinians "in their efforts to regain their legitimate rights under the leadership of the PLO... particularly their right to self-determination and statehood."

He made no mention in his speech, however, of PLO leader Yasser Arafat, who is besieged with 4,000 of his men in the north Lebanon port of Tripoli by Syrian-backed Palestinian rebels.

The Emir said the gravest danger threatening the Arab World was division and called on Arabs "to prevail over the causes of our discord... and unify our ranks to achieve our objectives, the first of which is finding a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem."



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'Few in U.S. want Marines in Beirut'

WASHINGTON (R) — Support for the deployment of American Marines in Beirut is eroding as casualties mount but moves to withdraw them are unlikely to start this year, several lawmakers have said.

After a private briefing by State and Defence Department officials, Dante Fascell, acting chairman of the House of Representatives' foreign affairs committee, said he did not expect House and Senate leaders to call Congress back into session and would not recommend it.

The briefing for about 40 house members was to discuss last week-

end's U.S. air strikes against Syrian targets in Lebanon.

Mr. Fascell said: "The administration has repeated to us that it doesn't want to go to war with Syria. It has no desire to widen the conflict in any sense."

But several congressmen at the meeting later strongly criticised the deployment of 1,800 U.S. Marines in Beirut. Democrat Sonny Montgomery called it "one of the worst missions ever assigned an American military force."

Democrat Byron Dorgan said Mr. Reagan's policy in the region "moves us dangerously closer to

war... members of Congress will turn away from this foreign policy early next year."

Democrat William Alexander, describing Beirut "as a war we cannot win," said there was a growing sense of frustration and erosion of support not only in Congress but also among the American public for keeping the Marines in Lebanon.

Meanwhile the U.S. Defence Department, searching for ways to lessen the vulnerability of American Marines in Beirut, is considering reducing the number of men on the ground in the city, defence officials said Friday.

The joint chiefs of staff are weighing a number of possible moves to redeploy Marines from Beirut airport, which is easily hit by Druze militiamen.

He said moving Marine headquarters to another location away from the factional warring in Beirut or to ships at sea, the officials said, if based on ships, Marine units would be rotated ashore for patrol duties at the airport.

Defence officials said the Marines were there as a peacekeeping force and, despite concern for their safety, needed to be visible if they were to carry out their mission.

U.S. hopes for safe evacuation of PLO; condemns West Bank killing

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department deputy spokesman Alan Romberg said he was not able to confirm reports that Israeli forces had shelled Palestinian positions around the northern Lebanese port city of Tripoli.

"We hope that plans to evacuate the PLO from Tripoli will proceed unimpeded in order to resolve expeditiously a situation that has already led to many civilian casualties," Mr. Romberg said Friday.

The evacuation of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman Yasser Arafat and forces loyal to him is to be carried out under the auspices of the United Nations flag.

Mr. Romberg pointed out that the United States had supported last weekend's statement by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who said the evacuation would be carried out under the U.N. flag "on purely humanitarian grounds to facilitate the resolution of a situation which has already cost many innocent lives and created great destruction."

The deputy spokesman recalled that U.S. concern over the question of civilian casualties in Tripoli has been expressed many

times in the past and the United States hopes the evacuation will now proceed and "the infliction of civilian casualties will come to an end."

Mr. Romberg noted that Secretary of State George Shultz, in comments to reporters in Brussels, indicated that the evacuation of Mr. Arafat seemed to be the best solution to the problem.

Captured U.S. pilot

Speaking about the U.S. pilot now in Syrian hands, Mr. Romberg said the United States was gratified that representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had been able to obtain access to U.S. Navy Lt. Robert Goodman. He was captured in Syrian-controlled territory in Lebanon after his navy jet was shot down on Dec. 4.

"The ICRC informed of their visit," Mr. Romberg said. "But I don't have any details because ICRC interviews with prisoners

are confidential."

Ties with Egypt

Mr. Romberg reiterated the Reagan administration's belief that good relations between Israel and Egypt are important. But he declined comment on reports that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has suggested in a press interview that he may hold a referendum on the question of whether Egypt's ambassador should return to Israel. The ambassador was withdrawn following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982.

"Our attitude on the importance of good Egyptian-Israeli relations is quite well known," Mr. Romberg said. "Where there have been problems in the relationship, we have expressed our sincere hope that they could be resolved to their mutual satisfaction as quickly as possible."

When one reporter suggested an Egyptian referendum

would preclude Cairo from returning its ambassador to Israel, Mr. Romberg responded simply by saying he would not "prejudge results of a process going on either in this country or another one."

He said he was not prepared to get into the specifics of questions being posed, pointing out: "I have said that we believe that good relations between Israel and Egypt are important."

Mr. Romberg hailed as "extremely positive and potentially significant" a statement by prominent moderate Palestinians who have condemned the Dec. 6 bombing of a Jerusalem city bus that killed four Israelis and injured 43.

The statement which appeared in Al Fajr, an east Jerusalem Arabic daily newspaper with strong ties to the main Fatah faction of the PLO headed by Mr. Arafat, expressed the belief that "attacks on civilian targets are detrimental to any Palestinian-Israeli understanding."

"We view it as extremely positive and potentially significant."

Italy studies Tripoli pullout

ROME (R) — Italy is consulting its partners in the multi-national peace-keeping force on how to guarantee the evacuation of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian fighters from Tripoli, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday.

Government sources said the two main unresolved problems were access to the Lebanese port and finding civilian vessels prepared to go in.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Italy was consulting the United States, France and Britain, its partners in the peace-keeping force, about a Greek request to guarantee the operation.

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TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

16:30	Koraa
16:45	Cartoons
17:10	Children's Programmes
18:35	Survival
19:00	Local Programme
19:30	A Special Programme on the UNICEF in Jordan
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Local Series
21:30	Soccer - World Club Championship: Hamburg (W. Germany) vs. Gremio (Brazil)
22:10	Arabic Series
23:10	News Summary

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00	French Programme
19:00	News in French
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Yes Minister
21:10	Towards 2000
21:10	The Citadel - Episode 9
22:00	News in English
22:15	Best Seller: Thorn Birds - Episode 5

RADIO JORDAN

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& parity on 95.60 KHz SW

07:00	Morning Show
07:30	News Bulletin
08:00	News Summary
10:05	Morning Show
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Pop Session
13:00	Catch the Words
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instrumentals
14:30	Science Report
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:03	Instrumentals, Old Favourites
17:00	Listeners' Choice
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Jazz Hour
19:00	News Summary
19:30	Date with a Sex
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:55	News Summary
22:00	Evening Show
23:00	News Summary

23:03	Evening Show
24:00	News Headlines

BBC WORLD SERVICE

630, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00	Newsdesk 06:30 The English Air
06:45	Financial Review 06:55 Reflections
07:00	07:00 World News 07:05 British Press Review 07:15 Letterbox 07:30
07:45	07:45 Letter from America 08:00 World News 08:05
08:15	08:15 The Asking 08:30 World News 08:35
08:45	08:45 News about Britain 09:15 From Our Own Correspondent 09:30 A Closer Look
09:45	09:45 Reporting of the Week
10:00	10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections
10:15	10:15 The Pleasure's Yours 11:00 World News 11:05 British Press Review 11:15
11:30	11:30 Science in Action 11:45 Sports Review
12:15	12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:05
13:15	13:15 News about Britain 13:25 Letter from America 13:30 Baker's Half
13:45	13:45 Dozen 14:00 Play of the Week 15:00
15:00	15:00 World News 15:05 Commentary 15:15
15:30	15:30 Good Books 15:35 Clinging to the Wreckage
15:45	15:45 The Sunday Jones Request Show 16:00 The Upland
16:15	16:15 The Upland 16:30 The Upland
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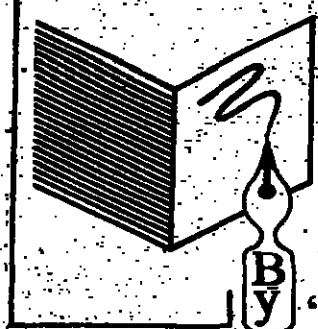
KHz 1260, 5965, 7200, 15205, 11725

05:00	The Breakfast Show: News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listener's Questions, Science Digest, News Summary, 30 minutes past the hour. 17:00 News 17:10 News Horizons and News Products 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoints
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The last escape route

We are the wheat of the earth and if we wither now we will probably come back in the spring.

"The whole world is watching America now and trembling," said Mr. Caldicott.



AMMAN NOTEBOOK

Inad Khairallah

EDITOR'S NOTE: Having tried almost every trade in the world and faced miserable failures, the writer is turning his hands, which, incidentally were used to make bricks at one stage, to columnising. He used to make a living as door-to-door salesman, bartender, driver to a British royalty, petrol-station attendant, butler, supermarket cashier, shoe-shiner, bellboy at a five-star hotel, kitchen-cleaner in one of the downtown Amman restaurants, nursing orderly, security guard, tourist guide, dog trainer, private investigator, typist, telephone operator, secretary, and executive manager of an international company, among other professions at various stages of his erstwhile life. The twist occurred when he wandered into the offices of the Jordan Times one day to put an advertisement offering his services as a "computer mechanic" and tried to gyp the advertisement manager out of the required charges. He has agreed to write a fortnightly column for the Jordan Times until he leaves the country "to take up the job of a senior professor" at one of the famous universities in the U.S. The subjects which he will be writing about are very much related to daily happenings in Amman, and hence the name of the column. From taxi rides, about which he wrote an article a fortnight ago, and obtaining a driving licence to telephone services, and wasting office time are subjects Inad Khairallah intends to write about and hopes to be entertaining and useful. Please join us in wishing him luck, continuity and perhaps happiness.

The other day a visitor came to our office, visibly seething and fuming at something he could not bear. He demanded to see the boss, who, most unfortunately, was not around. We told the visitor so and this seemed to infuriate him more for he glared at us as if we were the culprits for all his woes and he would not like to waste the first opportunity to manhandle us. Since courtesy demanded we

asked the visitor if he would sit down and relax. "Relax, my foot," he said lowering his bulk into the most comfortable-looking chair around. "Don't you know that no one in his right mind can ever relax in this part of the world?"

We said no, we did not know. "You seem to be a tame lot," he commented, accepting our offer of a cup of tea and squinting at us. What made him think we were a

tame lot, we asked him, shuddering at the thought of our secretary who would throw tantrums, scream and shout if one of her pens are missing, the office boy who would break the photocopier if someone asks him to take a copy during the morning one hour devoted to his newspaper reading and our driver whose voice would drown a thunder (when the boss is not around of course) at the slightest question of the appropriation of benzine.

"Well, you seem to accept things the way they are netted out to you," our visitor contended, taking a deep pull at the tea. If we do accept what is happening to us that is because there is no alternative, we told him.

"That is not the way I grew up," our visitor said. "I have learnt that if you want something you fight for it." You cannot always fight with everyone, we remarked.

"You can say that again," was the reply, "now you are making some sense. You cannot fight with everyone, but you have to, if you want to get something."

"By the way, is your 'phone working?" our visitor suddenly remembered something. We nodded. "May I use it?" he pulled the phone towards him without waiting for a reply and started dialling. It was some time before he said in a triumphant voice, "Hello, exchange?" He brightened. "May I speak with Mr. ... please. Thank you."

"An eighth wonder," he whispered across the table to us, covering the phone mouthpiece with one hand. "A soft-spoken lady at the exchange. Usually their an-

swers resemble battlecries." "This morning again I found my 'phone out of order, as it was for the past week," our visitor seemed to set himself for a long narration, the way he pressed the earpiece to his ear and continued to cover the mouthpiece. "Every day of the week I called them, twice in the morning and twice in the evening from my house and whoever answered promised me to fix it in a matter of hours every time."

"So, this morning I really went mad and wanted to tear the instrument into pieces," he continued, glaring at our 'phone and for a moment we thought he might carry out the threat in our office. Apparently, he thought the better of it. "I went over to my neighbours to use their phone to let the exchange people have an earful. But as usual, their boss was out, who had locked the 'phone and took the key with him on his way out. So, I could not take advantage of the most gracious gesture of good neighbourliness."

"The only thing soft about this lady at the exchange seems to be her voice," our visitor commented on the long delay for Mr. ... to come on the line. "I bet she has forgotten all about me hanging on this end."

Why doesn't he hang up and try the other number of the exchange, we asked. "No, I dare not," our visitor shook his head. "It has taken me all this morning just to get an answer and now if I let go, it would be hours before I can get someone on the line."

"So, I went down all four bloody floors," he came back to his narration, and it took us some

time to recollect the instance. "I phoned the exchange from the restaurant downstairs. Most strangely, every time, either there was no answer or an engaged tone."

"I could not do it for long because the restaurant owner seemed to resent my using his 'phone, so I was back to square one. But by then, I had made up my mind."

Suddenly his face brightened and the 'phone in his hand crackled at the other end. "Hello, please brother, I am on this line for the past half-hour waiting for Mr. ... is he around? ... Okay."

Our visitor seemed to suffer a stroke. "You see, he told us, just as I said, the lady has done a disappearing act, and now I had to repeat my request to a new voice."

"The whole day is ruined," he lamented. "When I left my office, making up my mind to drive over the exchange and let them have it. I did not think it would be so disastrous." No reason to feel so low just because of an out-of-order telephone, we tried to console him.

"That is not the only thing," came the reply. "You see, when you start a day bad, everything goes bad."

"There I was at the carpark near my office — not exactly near, you see — to retrieve my car to drive over to the exchange, only to find someone has spirited away one of my beautiful new hubcaps — 16 dinars is what I paid for the set of four."

"I cursed the whole generation of the culprit, and controlling myself started my laborious way to the exchange. Of course you know

Amman drivers, they never allow you to reach somewhere if you are in an urgency. No policemen around in the dense traffic and when you get out of the quagmire and speed to make up for the lost time, you end up paying 5 dinars to the radar people."

"Hello," the 'phone crackled again. "Mr. ...? ...Not there? ...Do you know when he will be back? ...Oh... OK. Just tell him I called? ...Never mind my name," he barked the 'phone down.

"I do not know what is wrong," he turned to us. "In this country, wherever you go, or call by 'phone, no-one seems to be in. How business survives here is a wonder."

"Well, I should get going. When do you think your boss will be back?" he made motions of getting up and the 'phone rang. One of us picked up the phone. "Hello ... whom do you want please ... whom do you want please ... whom do you want? ... Tell ME whom do you want? ... No it is not pharmacy ... Don't you know that numbers starting with 41 have been changed? ... No, I do not know the new number of the pharmacy and I couldn't care less... Bye."

Our visitor, who was following our end of the conversation very interestedly, said suddenly: "I bet he asked you you were first, instead of asking whether this is the right number." He shook his head.

"That is so irritating, you know. The phone rings, you pick it up and suddenly a bawling voice asks 'Who?' That is nonsense. People should realise that once they dial a number, it is the caller's duty to verify whether it is the right number or not. And it is very rude to

ask the answering party to identify himself without doing so first themselves."

We could not agree with him more. We also do not take kindly towards people who call up and ask us who we were, we told him. Our visitor looked at us with a new respect. "In that case I would like to tell you something more," he said, firming up his position in the chair. "You see, this morning as I told you, I was driving to the exchange in the vague hope of finding someone whom I know working there and using a bit of my 'wasta' to fix my 'phone. On my way, I thought, since I am out of the office I might as well get an import licence."

"So I drove over to the ministry. Fortunately, I had my 'Bars' at thimms" (income tax clearance certificate), I filled all the forms, got all necessary signatures and to my relief I found I had another 15 minutes to spare before the cashier closes his window at 11.30."

Why the cashier, we inquired. "To pay the license fee of course," he emphasised. "It is not every day that you go over to the ministry. So, since I was there might as well finish the process, I thought."

"So I went up humming under my breath only to find a small crowd arguing with an invisible — presumably the cashier's — voice from behind a wooden trap door."

"Why, it is only 11.20," one guy was saying holding up his wrist and pointing to his watch. "No way," came the answer from behind the trapdoor. "My watch says it is 11.35. Won't you guys ever realise this is a government department? I am supposed to follow rules. I

can not accept any money any more. Come back tomorrow morning."

We all checked our watches and there was no possibility that it was even 11.25, leave alone 11.35. So we shouted back and pleaded. "I am coming from a place 45 kilometres from Amman. How can I do it everyday?" one man was saying. No matter we tried there was no more answer.

"Well, this got me going again," our visitor reflected. "One guy wants to cut down his work by 15 minutes and a dozen others suffering for it!"

"So, I went down, looking for the official in charge. I wanted to put my foot down and tell him his cashier follows his own timing system, and something better be done about it before I go to the minister himself with the complaint." Our visitor winked. "It is only a ploy, you know. From where do I know the minister? But how does the official know you don't?"

We were all ears now for the visitor. So we said, sometimes we too pull tricks like that, but what happened with him. His face clouded again. "The official in charge was also out of his office and nobody knew where he was," he pulled a paper tissue and wiped his forehead. "Now you know, why I said, when I call up by phone or in person, no one is in."

At this point our teaboy, who was a silent listener to all of our visitor's story, chirped in: "You have been sitting here for some time now. What do you think your secretary would be telling visitors to your office?"

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Navratilova captures her 2nd Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — World number one Martina Navratilova, who captured her second Australian Tennis Open title here on Saturday, moved one step closer to the 'Grand Slam' with the nagging fear of defeat uppermost in her mind.

The Czechoslovak-born American admitted after her 6-2, 7-6 victory over compatriot Kathy Jordan in the 77-minute women's final that she had played tentatively. "I was just trying not to lose."

Her unaccustomed hesitancy was evident as Jordan, 24, staged a second-set fightback and saved six match points before surrendering the match in the tiebreaker.

Only the French Open title now stands between Navratilova, who already has Wimbledon and the U.S. Open under her belt, and the million-dollar bonus of the rare 'Grand Slam' triumph.

Chinks in the 27-year-old left-hander's armour had showed earlier in the tournament when she lost a set for the first time in four months to Britain's Jo Durie in their quarter-final.

She said her record this year of only one defeat in 87 matches had proved a problem on Saturday, with the prospect of a second loss to round off the year always in her mind.

"I thought I'd come so close I don't want to blow it now," she said.

Navratilova gave some of the credit for her win to the calming influence of her close friend Nancy Lieberman who flew out from the United States earlier this

week. "She knows me really well emotionally and was able to say just the right things to make me relax and go after it, and she really helped me during the match," she said.

"But I just didn't go out there and go after it," she added.

Although she stormed through the first set in just 27 minutes, Navratilova conceded she was playing much as she had when she lost to American Kathy Horvath in the 1983 French Open.

"I was just keeping the ball in play and I was mad that I was in that situation. I was tentative."

"I was just trying not to lose — I have done that before and just barely squeezed the matches and I lost to Horvath because I was playing not to lose."

After a nervous first set, ninth-seeded Jordan looked more determined and relaxed in the second, going into a surprise 3-1 lead after breaking serve in the third game.

"I have a way of making it tighter than it needs to be," Navratilova said. "Had it been a third set then it would have been gut-wrenching. At 3-1 in the second set I was saying to myself 'I had better break early before it is too late.'"

Navratilova, champion here in

1981 but losing finalist to compatriot Chris Lloyd last year, must win her next two tournaments in Washington and Oakland, California, to break Lloyd's 10-year-old record of 56 straight wins.

Jordan, also runner-up to Durie in the New South Wales Open two weeks ago, said later all the players got "psyched out" by how much was written about Navratilova's talents.

"I think she is human like the rest of us and makes quite a few mistakes, but after all you hear about her you don't expect any mistakes and you put more pressure on yourself to play well," she said.

"But I don't think she has any glaring weaknesses or anything and you have to play really well to beat her. She is a great player," she added.

Meanwhile, Australia's Davis Cup hopes, flagging after Sweden's Mats Wilander beat John McEnroe to reach Sunday's men's final against Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl, received a boost on Saturday.

Jordan to develop policy for youth, sports

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan will be participating in the activities of the International Year for Youth. The United Nations have declared 1985 as the International Year for Youth. Mr. Ma'an Abu Nowar, Minister of Culture and Youth said Saturday in an interview with the Jordan Times.

The Jordan National Committee for the International Year of Youth has been already formed with Mr. Abu Nowar as president. Mr. Peter Salah, Under-Secretary Ministry of Information, Dr. Mahmoud Mamser representative for the University of Jordan and the Forum Hamann, Dr. Ahmad Sarah representing the Ministry of Health, Mr. Tayseer Arafah from the Ministry of Education, Dr. Ali Mahafiah President of Mo'tah University Dr. Abdullah Muwafi from the Yarmouk University, Mr. Mohammad Abu Tayyeb Director Youth Welfare Organisation and Mr. Akram Masarawi as Secretary-General of the committee.

Mr. Abu Nowar said that the committee will start its meetings and workshops early next year to study programmes and to survey the assets and capabilities of youth in Jordan. The committee, he said, will be working to develop a Jordanian policy for youth and sports in the Kingdom.

The Jordan National Olympic Committee (NOC) board of directors chaired by Mr. Abu Nowar will also meet Sunday at the Hussein Sports City to discuss Jordan's participation in the 23rd Los Angeles Olympics next year. Attending the meeting will be members of the board and presidents of the various sports federations in Jordan.

The general secretary of the NOC gave information on the estimated costs of Jordan's participation in the Los Angeles games amounting to JD 80,000 for the 50 Jordanian delegations.

The committee said that the costs can be reduced by JD 58,000 if the number of the delegation was reduced to 30 members.

Dev rescues India after winning toss

CALCUTTA, India (R) — India's captain Kapil Dev had to come to his side's rescue after he won the toss and chose to bat at the start of the fifth cricket test against the West Indies here on Saturday.

Malcolm Marshall removed Sunil Gavaskar with the very first ball of the match and in mid-afternoon, India were 63 for six. But Kapil Dev, with a spirited but slightly fortunate 69, led a revival

that saw India reach 231 for eight at the close. Roger Binny (44) and Syed Kirmani (42 not out) helped their captain in restoring India's fortunes.

Kapil Dev was dropped twice, at five and 48. First Viv Richards put him down at second slip off Winston Davis and then Marshall fumbled a chance at mid-off off Michael Holding.

Marshall was in devastating form at the start of the Indian innings, taking his three wickets in an opening nine-over spell. Holding also turned in a magnificent performance on a slow pitch and both pacemen finished the day with three for 59 runs.

Marshall's early burst reduced India to 13 for three. Gavaskar was caught behind from a ball that

lifted and brushed his glove and the other opener, Anshuman Gaekwad, was yorked. Mohinder Amarnath, returning to the side after missing the third and fourth tests, was a little unlucky being caught and bowled off a ball which stopped.

It was the third time in consecutive innings in this series that Amarnath has been dismissed without scoring.

Dilip Vengasarkar and Ashok Malhotra held up the West Indians for 50 minutes while they put on 28 for the fourth wicket. Vengasarkar batted confidently for 23.

After lunch India lost two wickets with the score at 63. Ravi Shastri was yorked by Holding and Malhotra, aiming to work a ball from Davis on the leg side, was caught at cover off a leading edge.

Coventry rips apart Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Unfashionable Coventry, rebuilt during the close season by a little-known manager with a crop of lower-division rejects, ripped apart league leaders Liverpool 4-0 on Saturday to extend one of English soccer's more unlikely records.

The champions, seeking their 15th league crown have not won at Coventry for 11 years — and failed to score in nine of those visits.

The result eased Coventry into fourth place in the table, and sliced Liverpool's lead from four points to one.

West Ham, 3-1 winners over London neighbours Arsenal, and Manchester United, 2-0 victors at Ipswich, stay locked together on 33 points behind the champions.

Coventry's unlikely hero was Terry Gibson, who netted a hat-trick. The former Tottenham striker, one of nine players to join Coventry in the close season, struck in the 19th, 45th and 54th minutes after his side had raced into a 3-0 half-time lead.

Earlier, Micky Plattauer stunned the champions when he swooped to head Coventry in front after just 45 seconds following a mistake by Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar. After that Coventry did not look back.

back after two matches to boost their attack, had no answer to the all-out assault. They almost staggered to a draw.

Liverpool, unbeaten since October 1 and with Kenny Dalglish mired the flow of goals after the interval but Irish international Mark Lawrenson, England's Phil Neal and captain Graham Soules were all booked.

There was no relief for much-troubled Arsenal, who suffered their fourth successive defeat.

Arsenal had John Kay sent off along with West Ham's David Swindlehurst for fighting in the 35th minute — just two minutes after England midfielder Trevor Brooking put West Ham in front with a diving header.

Arsenal defender Chris Whyte added to his side's misery when he put through his own goal to make it 2-0 in the 70th minute. Geoff Pike netted the third two minutes from time before Whyte made some amends for his earlier error when he grabbed a consolation goal in the dying seconds.

Manchester United kept pace with the leaders thanks to goals by winger Arthur Graham and Tottenham's on-loan striker Garth Crooks, his first for the club.

Leicester's Alan Smith and Luton's Paul Walsh also scored

first division hat-tricks on Saturday.

Smith grabbed his three goals in a 20-minute first-half spell as struggling Leicester crushed bottom-placed Wolverhampton 3-1. Gary Lineker and Steve Lynex completed Leicester's romp.

Walsh completed his hat-trick with a last minute goal to seal Luton's 4-2 win at lowly Stoke, who sacked manager Richie Barker on Friday. Walsh opened the scoring after 20 minutes and added a second seven minutes later before Ray Daniel hit the third. Former Swansea striker James replied twice for Stoke.

Watford's George Reilly was ordered off during a 3-2 triumph over UEFA Cup quarter-finalists Nottingham Forest.

Reilly, who shot Watford 2-1 ahead in the 34th minute, was dismissed 22 minutes into the second half for a crunching tackle on Forest's Chris Fairclough.

Earlier, news signing Maurice Johnston, Watford's hat-trick hero last week, shot his side ahead after just 5 minutes before Gary Birtles equalised. Nigel Callaghan scored Watford's third before the break, with Birtles snatching Forest's second in the 49th minute.

Hamburg set their sights on World Championship glory

TOKYO (R) — West Germany's Hamburg, crowned European Soccer Champions in May, have a golden opportunity to restore their tarnished reputation when they tackle Gremio of Brazil for the World Club Championship in Tokyo on Sunday.

Hamburg, scaled, unexpected heights when, inspired by a wonderful goal from former West German international Felix Magath, they beat Juventus in last season's European Cup final in Athens.

But their reign was brief and far from distinguished. Having been awarded a first round bye this

year, they were unceremoniously dumped out of the competition by Dinamo Bucharest of Romania in the second round.

The title of World Champions would go a long way to erasing the memory of that embarrassment but the West Germans know history is firmly on the side of the Brazilians.

South America leads 13-8 overall and it is seven years since Europe's last success when Hamburg's fellow-West Germans Bayern Munich beat Cruzeiro of Brazil 2-0 over two legs.

That was West Germany's only previous triumph but Gremio will out to take the trophy back to Brazil for a fourth time, following Pele's unforgettable Santos (1962 and 1963) and Zico's Flamengo (1981).

Gremio earned their tilt at the World Championship by beating last year's winners Penarol of Uruguay 3-2 on aggregate, and, although they are not one of Brazil's glamour clubs, they did not make the long flight to Japan just to do some sightseeing.

Uruguayan captain Hugo de Leon is an inspirational figure in defence while talented midfielders China, Osvaldo and Paulo Cesar Lima provide the ammunition for

twin-strikers Renato and Tarciso.

The Brazilians have made no secret of the fact that Magath is the man they fear most, but they will not have to face attacking full-back Manni Kaltz or winger Juergen Milewski, both of whom will miss the game through injury.

With Horst Hrubesch now playing in Belgium with Standard Liege, there is a strange look about Hamburg and their confidence plunged further last weekend when they suffered an unexpected reverse in the Bundesliga.

A 2-0 defeat by Stuttgart brought an end to Hamburg's two-and-a-half-year unbeaten home record and emphasised the European Champions' shortcomings in front of goal.

Dieter Schatschneider and Thomas von Heesen are the men Hamburg look to for goals and if Gremio can put the shackles on them Hamburg may struggle.

The match, which is the fourth to be staged in Tokyo, will be televised or video-taped in 61 nations.

On the evidence of the three previous finals in Tokyo, the South Americans appear better equipped to adapt to the conditions.

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3 soldiers hurt as bomb explodes at London barracks guardroom

LONDON (R) — A bomb partly demolished the guardroom wall at a London army barracks early Saturday, injuring three soldiers, military spokesmen said.

Some 400 army personnel were evacuated from their quarters and police told about 20 civilian residents to leave their homes nearby in case there was another bomb. The casualties suffered minor injuries and shock, said a spokesman at the Royal Artillery Regiment barracks, in southeast London's Woolwich District.

An eyewitness said the bomb left a crater five metres wide. Some soldiers were at a Christmas

Party 300 metres from the blast. The 3:45 a.m. explosion shattered windows of shops, houses and parked cars over a radius of about 200 metres, police said.

One civilian said: "I was in bed and the explosion blew all the glass from my windows on to the bed. All the frames came out, too."

It was the first bomb attack on the armed forces in mainland Britain, since July 1982 when two

bombs planted by Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas in central London parks killed 11 soldiers.

Earlier, a series of Irish guerrilla bomb attacks in London in 1981 killed three people and injured 39.

The IRA planted a small bomb at Woolwich barracks two years ago, injuring two women, and in 1974 a bomb exploded in a crowded tavern opposite the same barracks, killing one man and injuring 26 people.

An unnamed man was arrested in northern Ireland and brought to London a week ago for questioning about the 1981 bombings, police said last Monday.

In Belfast two policemen were injured Friday night by a bomb which blew out the front of a derelict house in the Northern Ireland town of Armagh, near the Irish Republic's border, police sources said.

There was no immediate word of who was responsible. On Thursday night bombs damaged five buildings in the nearby town of Newry.

Both towns have long been centres of conflict between Irish Republican guerrillas, claiming to represent the province's minority Roman Catholic community, and the Protestant majority, fiercely loyal to British rule.

Non-aligned, Western nations unanimous in condemning N. Korea

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — North Korea was come in for heavy condemnation at the United Nations by both the non-aligned nations and Western countries for its October bombing in Burma that killed 21 persons, including 17 members of a visiting South Korean delegation.

The expressions of outrage and condemnation came during three days of discussion in the U.N.'s legal committee on international terrorism held from Dec. 6 till 8. The discussions preceded a finding by a Burmese court that two North Korean agents were guilty of the deed. Both were condemned to death.

Meanwhile, in Washington, a U.S. State Department official, when asked to comment on the U.N. discussions said, "the world was shocked" by the event.

"That shock," he added, "was reflected in the speeches made during the U.N. discussions." He noted that "some 29 non-aligned countries were among the 45 speakers criticising the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the attack."

"No one defended North Korea, including its allies," the U.S. official noted. "The representative of Burma," he added, "presented the conclusions of his government's investigation of the attack, which determined that the

North Korean army officers... had carried out the attack under the instructions of their government."

In an unusual display of unanimity among Third World and Western delegations, North Korea at the U.N. committee sessions was singled out by a majority of the countries for its "horrendous," "cowardly," and "unpeakable act" of international terrorism in Burma.

In a year in which the number of acts of terrorism is expected to exceed 800, delegates noted, the incident in Burma was singled out as "particularly repulsive" as no other incident in any part of the world.

Over 40 delegations condemned the North Korean attack in Rangoon against the visiting South Korean delegation led by President Chun Doo Hwan, and almost half supported the findings of the Burmese investigators that the North Korean government itself was responsible.

Costa Rican delegate Edwin Munoz pointed out that the act was deplorable not only because it violated the sovereignty of a third state, but also because it had been executed by a government.

Nigeria called the act "as cowardly as it was horrendous." Unfortunately, A. Adem Adeyemi added, "it is easier to condemn such acts than it is to avert them."

W. Germans begin U.S. missile base blockade

MUTLANGEN, West Germany (R) — About 2,000 anti-nuclear demonstrators began a protest Saturday outside a U.S. air force base here, expected to be sited as Pershing-2 missiles, the first of which arrived two weeks ago.

The organisers told reporters they planned to surround the base, near Stuttgart, and as five minutes to noon link hands in silence as a symbol of an impending nuclear catastrophe.

They planned to end their protest with a religious service outside Mutlangen, and then form a human chain between the camp and the nearby medieval town of Schwabsch Gmund.

Police reported no early incidents.

West German and U.S. authorities have refused to say where the Pershings will be deployed but it is an open secret that they will be sited at Mutlangen and two camps nearby.

West Germany is one of five countries that said they would take new NATO nuclear weapons if Moscow refused to scrap its SS-20 rockets aimed at Western Europe.

Previous demonstrations at Mutlangen, one of three camps which the anti-nuclear protesters say will house the missiles, flared out. Either nothing moved from the base or police carried demonstrators off across roads to let military convoys through.

In a separate four-day action which began in Frankfurt Friday, police used water cannons to clear several hundred demonstrators away from a U.S. military camp believed to be the workplace of technicians from the Martin Marietta Company, which makes Pershing parts.

Police said they detained 204 people, most of whom were released later. Friday night only about 50 demonstrators were still braving miserable weather near the camp entrance.

Ortega ready to meet Bush

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega has said he would be willing to meet United States Vice-President George Bush in Buenos Aires as part of efforts to solve the conflict in Central America.

Mr. Ortega, in Argentina for Saturday's inauguration of President Raul Alfonsín, told reporters Friday night: "We believe we have the obligation to fight for peace, even if it means fighting for war."

"I am willing to meet Mr. Bush during my visit to Buenos Aires, where I also plan to meet with other Latin American presidents," he said. Mr. Bush is also attending the inauguration.

Mr. Ortega said on Thursday in Ecuador an U.S. invasion of his country would eventually be beaten. Nicaragua has repeatedly alleged that U.S.-backed right-wing rebels seeking to overthrow his government operate from Costa Rica and Honduras.

In Panama, a foreign ministry spokesman said Friday that talks set for later this month in Panama City to implement a Central American peace plan have been postponed until January.

A general agreement based on a widely approved peace plan was expected to have been signed at the Dec. 20-21 meeting.

4 squatters strip before Mona Lisa

PARIS (R) — Four squatters took off their clothes in front of the painting of the Mona Lisa in the Louvre Museum to protest about their expulsion from a squat, police said. The lady preserved her mysterious smile. But the museum keepers were not amused and called the police. Three of the demonstrators were arrested before they had time to dress, but the fourth managed to escape with his clothes under his arm.

New York bars wild to want pregnant women

NEW YORK (R) — Mayor Edward Koch has signed a law requiring New York City taverns to post signs warning women of the dangers of drinking while pregnant. The law, which will take effect in February, will require places where alcohol is sold to post prominent signs saying: "Warning: Drinking alcoholic beverages can cause birth defects."

Mayor Koch said the law had caused controversy with the national organization of women, which complained that it made the rights of unborn children superior to the rights of mothers. But Mayor Koch disagreed. The signs only give "pregnant women the right to make an educated choice," he said.

Veteran Hollywood actor dies at 64

MODESTO, California (R) — Burt, slow-speaking character actor Slim Pickens, who switched from a rodeo rider to star of such films as "Dr. Strangelove" and "azing Saddles," died here Friday of pneumonia, family friends said. He was 64. Pickens had been in a health for some time and underwent an operation last December to remove a brain tumour.

Pickens, born Louis Lindley, was probably best known for his role as bomber pilot Maj. T.J. "King" Kong in "Dr. Strangelove." One of the few actors who could drive a six-horse stagecoach team, he appeared in scores of Western films in the late 1940s. His later films included "The Great Locomotive Chase," "One-eyed Jacks," "Major Dundee," "Rough Night in Jericho" and "The Cowboys."

Hungarian chess grandmaster killed

LONDON (R) — Hungarian chess grandmaster János Flesch was killed in an car accident Friday in Ramsgate, south east England, and his wife died later of injuries, a chess colleague reported.

Flesch, 50, author of a number of books on chess, claimed the world's second on simultaneous play against 52 opponents while blindfold in Budapest in 1960. He was in England to compete in international tournaments and to watch the world chess championship elimination semi-finals in London, in which his compatriot Zoltan Ribli is competing.

Ex-congressman sentenced to jail

WASHINGTON (R) — Former Congressman John Jenrette was sentenced to two years in prison and fined \$20,000 on bribery charges. The South Carolina Democrat was one of seven members of Congress who were convicted in the FBI's 1980 "Abecam" undercover operation where agents posed as Arab sheikhs and offered bribes to representatives and senators. He was freed on bail pending an appeal.

Africa destroys last smallpox virus

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The last smallpox virus in Africa was destroyed by the South African health minister at a high-security Johannesburg laboratory, health officials said. Until Friday the national institute of virology here was one of three laboratories where the virus was kept and studied.

The virus is still held in the United States and the Soviet Union. Smallpox killed more than two million people before the World Health Organization announced in 1980 that the natural world was free of the deadly virus.

2 Indian guards killed

DHAKA (R) — Two members of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) were hacked to death by villagers after they crossed illegally into Bangladesh's northern district of Kushtia Friday, district officials said Saturday.

They claimed that five men of the force crossed the border, a small, silted river, on a cattle-raiding expedition.

Local commanders of the Bangladesh border guards and the BSF held a meeting following the incident and agreed to tighten measures against illegal crossings.

Walesa accepts Nobel Prize

OSLO (R) — Lech Walesa, leader of the banned Polish trade union Solidarity, said Saturday in a speech accepting the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize that millions of Polish workers associated with Solidarity felt greatly honoured by the prize.

His speech was delivered at the award ceremony in the old hall of Oslo University by his wife Danuta, who received the 1.5 million Swedish crown (\$192,000) prize on his behalf.

The 40-year-old union leader, who was interned for 11 months for his opposition campaign, declined to attend the prize ceremony in case he was not allowed to return to Poland.

In his brief speech, Mr. Walesa, who was honoured for his contribution to ensuring workers' rights to establish their own organisations, said people were aware of the reasons why he could not come to receive the award in person.

"On that solemn day my place is among those with whom I have grown and to whom I belong — the workers of Gdansk," he said.

Stressing the peaceful methods of Solidarity, Mr. Walesa said: "We are fighting for the right of the working people to association and for the dignity of human labour."

Presenting the prize to Mrs. Walesa, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel committee Egil Aarvik said:

"Lech Walesa has made humanity bigger and more inviolable... it is the committee's opinion that he stands as an inspiration and a shining example to all those who, under different conditions, fight for freedom and humanity."

The Polish government has condemned the award as a politically motivated gesture by the West and Polish media were expected to ignore Saturday's ceremony.

U.K. printers dispute threatens to spread

LONDON (R) — Britain's national newspapers were Saturday threatened with an all-out stoppage triggered off by a fresh crisis over a print union's defiance of tough conservative government laws aimed at curbing the powers of trade unions.

A high court judge Friday fined the National Graphical Association (NGA), £525,000 (\$750,000) for refusing to obey court orders to stop organising mass picketing outside a local newspaper group in northwest England.

The fine was the third imposed on the NGA. Britain's most powerful print union, in a dispute which has occasioned the worst industrial violence since Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979.

The judge, hearing the case in Manchester, rejected a request from the union for a second seven-day adjournment to allow for further peace talks.

He said violent scenes on Nov. 30 when 25 policemen and 18 pickets were injured and 86 people arrested showed the NGA leaders were prepared to flout the law in an attempt to smash a business with which it was in dispute.

The court has already fined the union a total of £150,000 (\$

215,000) and frozen its £10-million (\$14.4-million) assets for contempt of court.

NGA representatives on the national papers have expressed outrage at the latest fine and decided to hold a big rally in London on Monday.

They will then know the next move decided upon by their leaders at a NGA national council meeting due to be held Saturday.

NGA General Secretary Joe Wade warned early Friday that support action could spread to national and provincial papers.

Friday night he accused a "maverick employer" of using government legislation to try to suck the union financially dry and to victimise his members.

The dispute, which resulted in a brief closure of national newspapers last month, began 24 weeks ago when six union members were fired by the provincial messenger group of newspapers for striking over employment of non-union personnel.

The union demanded their reinstatement and used printers to picket the firm, defying new laws limiting industrial action to those directly involved in any dispute.

ASEAN jurists probe human rights

JAKARTA (R) — A group of South East Asian jurists marked human rights day by criticising their governments for alleged violations and publishing a 26-page human rights declaration.

The regional council on human rights in Asia, a group of 22 jurists and other activists from Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore, expressed concern that the economic recession might make their governments — all members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) — become more repressive.

The council chairman, Indonesian lawyer Achmad Buyung Nasution, said after the group's first annual meeting that ASEAN countries suffered "unexplained disappearances, extra-legal executions, prolonged or indefinite detentions, exploitation of women, children and migrant workers, and oppression of minorities."

Filipino lawyer Jose Diokno, the council secretary-general, said 3,000 people had been executed without trial in the five countries over the past few years at a rough minimum estimate.

There were about 1,500 political prisoners in ASEAN, Mr. Diokno added, and the council intended to concentrate on campaigning for their release in the coming year.

Mr. Nasution has appealed to Indonesia's armed forces commander, Gen. Benny Murdani, to intervene to stop mystery killings which have claimed the lives of more than 2,000 criminal suspects in Indonesia over the past year in a campaign generally welcomed by the public.

Reagan urges defence of human rights

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Reagan says Americans have the "responsibility to speak out against blatant affronts to human rights."

"We must and we will speak out against the incarceration of Soviet dissidents in the psychiatric wards, against the barbaric persecution of the members of the Baha'i faith in Iran, against the racial injustice of the apartheid system in South Africa and against the persecution of the Catholic Church and the Solidarity labour movement in Poland," Mr. Reagan said.

The president's remarks came as he signed a proclamation setting aside Dec. 10 as human rights day and Dec. 15 as bill of rights day in the United States.

At the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, marking Saturday's 35th anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights, urged states to work harder to narrow the gap between the document's vision and present-day reality.

Alfonsín vows to change Argentine political map

By Robert Powell

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Raul Alfonsín, who took over as president of Argentina Saturday, has promised to consolidate its new-found democracy after 50 years of political instability.

The 57-year-old lawyer led his Radical Party to a landslide victory in elections on Oct. 30 on a pledge to respect the constitution and human rights while tackling acute economic problems.

A man of tremendous energy, his personal appeal and Social Democratic philosophy have succeeded in broadening the party's traditional power base among the middle class.

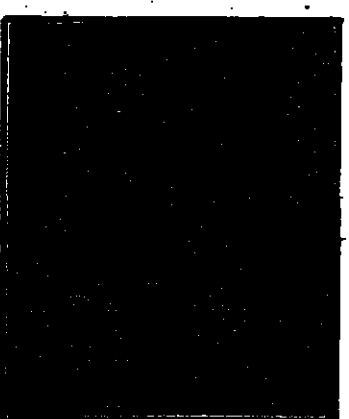
The election marked Argentina's return to democracy after nearly eight years of harsh military rule. Mr. Alfonsín inflicted a crushing defeat on the traditionally dominant Peronist Party.

He promised "100 years of peace and prosperity" and an end to the cycle of weak civilian governments and military coups which has characterised Argentina since 1930.

Mr. Alfonsín was born the son of an affluent Spanish immigrant shopkeeper in Chascomus, a small town 120 kilometres south of Buenos Aires, on March 13, 1926. He was educated at a military high school alongside several men who became top figures in the armed forces during the latest period of military rule.

But instead of following a career in the army, he studied law at Buenos Aires University, graduating in 1950. He returned to his home town and soon became deeply involved in politics.

A keen activist of the Radical Party since his teens, he became a deputy in the legislative assembly of Buenos Aires Province in 1952.



Raul Alfonsín

In 1963 he was elected a deputy aged only 26.

to the national parliament and two years later became president of the Radical Party in Buenos Aires Province, which contains half of Argentina's 24 million population.

Mr. Alfonsín founded the centre-left renovation and change faction of the party in 1972 and unsuccessfully challenged the incumbent Ricardo Balbin for the party leadership.

He opposed Mr. Balbin's policy of cooperation with the Peronists which relegated the Radical Party to being a permanent second force in national politics. He called for a more frontal opposition to Peronism and a campaign to recapture the Radical Party's mass appeal.

During the 1970s, he travelled widely in Latin America and Western Europe, developing close contacts with Social Democrat parties.

Along with other politicians, he was forced to suspend overt political activity after the 1976 coup which overthrew the elected government of Maria Estela Martinez de Peron.

When the armed forces announced Argentina's return to democracy last year following their defeat in the Falklands (Malvinas) conflict with Britain, Mr. Alfonsín was one of the first political leaders to step into the limelight.

Human rights stand

He rapidly became well known for his scathing attacks on military rule and his strong stand on human rights.

In December 1982 he struck an alliance with the Cordoba wing of the party and declared himself a candidate for the presidency. He toured the country tirelessly to campaign for social and economic progress based on a strict application of democracy, and accused several Peronist trade union leaders of making a pact with hard-line army officers.

Mr. Alfonsín has said one of his top priorities will be a reform of the trade unions to eliminate what he calls gangster tactics and make union leaders more accountable to their members.

In July, the renovation and change faction gained outright control of the Radical Party in internal elections and Mr. Alfonsín was formally proclaimed party leader.

He lost no time in starting his campaign and once again set off on a whistle-stop tour to the provinces.

The physical and mental strain showed in an increase in his habitually huge appetite and he gained 15 kilos in the two months before polling day.

He rises regularly at six a.m. and is rarely in bed before midnight. "Raul is as tough as a bull," says his personal doctor.

New York minorities allege police discrimination

By Arthur Spiegelman

Reuter

NEW YORK — Congressional hearings into alleged police brutality and racism in New York have sparked accusations that they are politically motivated and raised the ire of city Mayor Edward Koch to fever pitch.

As far as official New York is concerned, the hearings that began in July have been designed to trip Koch up when he seeks a third term in 1985.

The mayor has accused Congressman John Conyers of using his criminal justice sub-committee of the House of Representatives judiciary committee to single out New York for investigation at the instigation of Mayor Koch's political enemies.

For the six years Mr. Koch has been mayor, his most vocal critics have been black leaders claiming he ignores the needs of minorities composing almost 45 per cent of the city.

It was a group of black New

York clergymen who approached Mr. Conyers, a black Detroit Democrat, and asked for the hearings into incidents of racism and brutality involving police officers.

New York's black political leaders make no bones that they are searching for a candidate to stand against Mr. Koch in 1985.

Of the four largest cities in the United States, New York is the only one without a black mayor and where no blacks hold city-wide office.

Among New York's 25 per cent black and 20 per cent hispanic population, there are many who believe their brethren are harassed and beaten by police because of the colour of their skin.

However, one city official said the police had been caught in the middle of a power struggle.

"What better issue can you have to gain media attention if you are black than to have a hearing on police brutality," he said.

The head of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the police union, stormed out of a heavily guarded committee hearing in

New York last week dubbing the inquiry a witchhunt.

But behind all the political bombast are genuine grievances.

Although officials have acknowledged that some racism exists in the 24,000-member police department, they deny that racism and brutality is systematic or widespread.

This was a charge made by Mr. Conyers at a hearing in September but later retracted at Mr. Koch's insistence.

At the September hearing, about 100 people gave evidence on some 98 incidents ranging from rudeness to alleged murder.

Five cases involved police outside New York and one-third happened before Mr. Koch took office.

More than half the incidents involved brushes between minority groups and white officers, 25 of them resulting in deaths. There were 17 allegations of unnecessary force being used.

The police said officers were threatened or a weapon used in 21

of the death cases and that no criminal wrongdoing was found against police in 96 per cent of cases.

Black policemen also gave evidence of confrontations with white officers, saying: "White police officers cannot tell the difference between black crooks and black cops."

Top police officers say the congressional investigation has ignored the difficulties faced by New York's police who yearly cope with more than 1,600 murders, 3,500 rapes, 100,000 robberies and 200,000 burglaries among other crimes.

Between 1978 and 1983, police say 29 officers were killed and 508 shot at, while 600,000 arrests were made.

City officials want that regardless of the truth of the allegations, making police brutality a political issue could polarise the city.

Meanwhile, Mr. Conyers' committee has yet to decide whether to issue a report on New York, recommend new federal legislation or keep on inquiring.

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